UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

UNDP

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DP/PROJECTS/2856
(THA/78/021)
10 March 1980
ENGLISH ONLY

APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THAILAND

Improvement of Marine Science Education (THA/78/021)

Report of the Administrator*

Date of present approval:	May 1979
Starting date of project activities:	June 1979
Planned completion date:	June 1984
To be executed by:	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
Government implementing agency:	Department of Marine Science, Chulalongkorn University (Office of State Universities)
Estimated cost of assistance planned under present approval:	$447 700
Source of UNDP financing:	Indicative Planning Figure (IPF)

I. Background

1. By upgrading the present teaching and research programme of the Marine Science Department of Chulalongkorn University, the only institution in Thailand dealing with physical and chemical oceanography, the Government of Thailand aims at improving the Department's capability with regard to the rational and continuing conservation of natural marine resources and the protection of the marine environment in the Gulf of Thailand. The need for improvement originates from an apparent shortage of qualified personnel in the above mentioned fields, and is highlighted by the deteriorating situation in the Gulf due to increasing pollution and overfishing. The project is expected to make an effective contribution to the improvement of the quality and efficiency of higher education in the area of marine sciences.

*In accordance with General Assembly resolution 2688 (XXV) and subsequent authorizations of the UNDP Governing Council, reports are issued seriatim on the approval of UNDP assistance of $250,000 or more (including, if any, assistance financed by Government or by third-party cost sharing).

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2. Actions taken to upgrade Thailand's capability in physical and chemical oceanography and the consequent upgrading of information and understanding of the physical-chemical regime in Thailand waters will benefit the UNDP/FAO-assisted project, Pole and Line Tuna Fishing (THA/77/008), 1/ as well as the Thai Fisheries Research Department's demersal and pelagic fishery investigations of coastal seafarming and shellfisheries, and will be of material significance to marine fisheries development projects in the region.

II. Objectives and activities

3. The training of marine scientists is expected to make a major contribution to the authorities' capacity to monitor, control and ultimately predict and eliminate levels of pollution arising from industrial activities in the coastal zone. This is essential in order to safeguard supplies of fish and molluses, the chief protein source of the coastal population, from the concentration of metallic pollutants which can endanger consumers' health. Upgrading and maintenance of the quality of the coastal environment will lead to the improvement of the living standards of shoreline artisanal fishing communities.

4. To achieve its objectives, the project will provide the services of a number of consultants who will evaluate the current Master's degree programme, study similar programmes elsewhere and draw up guidelines for restructuring the programme and curriculum. They will hold staff seminars, give specialist lectures, advise on post-graduate research programmes, select fellowship candidates, supervise their higher degree work and field programmes, and organize study tours. The project will also provide training of staff largely by means of Ph.D. and M.Sc. fellowships for post-graduate studies at appropriate institutions, and also by direct transfer of expertise by the consultants in the Department.

III. Inputs

5. UNDP will provide, through the Executing Agency, the services of seven short-term consultants for a total of 28 months. Funds are also provided for five post-graduate fellowships leading to the Ph.D. or M.Sc. degrees and two study tours, together amounting to a total of 110 months, for staff of the Department of Marine Science at Chulalongkorn University, as well as for important items of training equipment.

IV. Financial data

6. The expenditure components of the planned assistance are as follows:

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Personnel	169 100
Training	193 000
Equipment	83 000
Miscellaneous	2 600
	447 700

8. The estimated total value, expressed in US dollars, of inputs provided directly by the Government to the project is $183,300 in kind.

1/ DP/PROJECTS/2332.